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Newly freed Suu Kyi calls for 'non-violent revolution'



Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech to thousands of supporters gathered at the National League for Democracy (NLD) headquarters in Yangon. (AFP photo)

YANGON, Myanmar (AFP) - Newly freed democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday called for a "non-violent revolution" in Myanmar as she knuckled down to the task of rebuilding her weakened opposition movement.

Speaking at her party headquarters in Yangon, where she met senior regional members for the first time in years, she told the BBC she was sure democracy would eventually come to her country, although she did not know when.

"I think we also have to try to make this thing happen... Velvet revolution sounds a little strange in the context of the military, but a non-violent revolution. Let's put it that way," the 65-year-old said.

Suu Kyi was freed from house arrest on Saturday, less than a week after a controversial election that cemented the junta's decades-long grip on power but was widely criticised by democracy activists and Western leaders as a sham.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner, who has been locked up by Myanmar's regime for 15 of the past 21 years, gave her first political speech in seven years on Sunday, appealing to thousands of her jubilant supporters for unity.

She said in her latest interview, published on the BBC website, that she would take any opportunity for talks with the ruling military junta, which she wanted to change rather than for it to fall.

"I don't want to see the military falling. I want to see the military rising to dignified heights of professionalism and true patriotism," she said.

"I think it's quite obvious what the people want; the people just want better lives based on security and on freedom."

A spokesman for her National League for Democracy (NLD) said he did not know whether a letter would be sent to junta leader Than Shwe to request a meeting.

Suu Kyi has had only limited contact with the outside world for most of the past two decades, but the telephone line at her crumbling lakeside mansion will be restored "soon", an unidentified Myanmar official told AFP.

Aruba honors its faithful visitors at the Divi Village



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored two loyal visitors. Arlette Johnson named Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba for her more than 20 consecutive years of vacationing here while Marie and All Mangiacapra were named Distinguished Visitors of Aruba for visiting the island for more than 10 consecutive years.

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Present at the occasion were Divi Village GM Gerri Griffith and also Gloria.

Photo shows the honorees proudly showing off their certificate with Divi Village's GM Gerri Griffith and Gloria and ATA rep. Amayra Boekhoudt.



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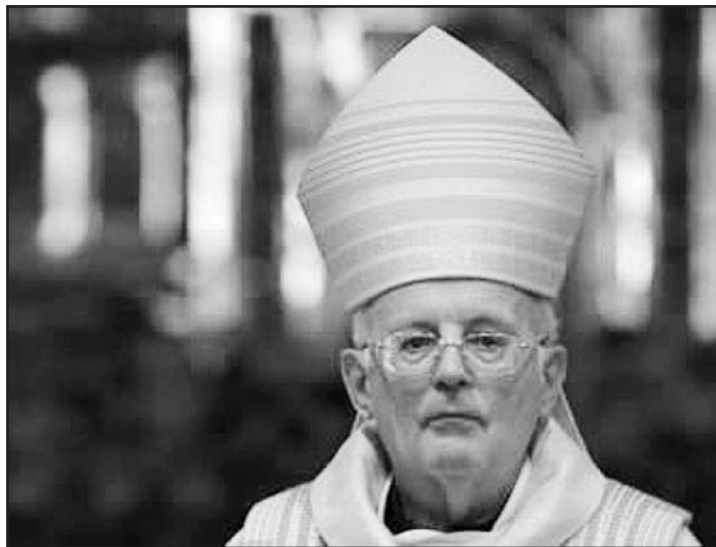
Dutch Catholic Church seeks advice on compensation for abuse

To this end, the two bodies appointed a commission of three legal experts in such topics as financial damages and compensation for bodily injury, that will report to Dutch bishops early next year.

"The commission was asked to consider all civil-legal aspects, like prescription (a limit on the period of time within which a crime can be prosecuted), legal liability, and compensation," the statement said.

Church spokesmen declined to give further details.

In March, the same two bodies ordered a "broad, external and independent" probe of alleged sexual abuse in the church. By August, a special commission had re-



ceived about 900 reports from alleged victims and witnesses.

This followed reports of

dozens of alleged abuse cases in the Netherlands dating back to the 1960s and 70s amid an ever-widening European scandal over pedophile

Swamp gas blamed for deadly Mexico hotel blast

CANCUN, Mexico (AFP) - A strong explosion that killed five Canadian tourists and two Mexicans at a luxury beach resort appeared to have been caused by compacted gas from a nearby swamp, authorities said yesterday.

Nine of 18 people hurt in Sunday's blast in the Grand Riviera Princess hotel in Playa del Carmen, south of Cancun, were released from hospital yesterday.

First investigations suggested that "an accumulation of gas caused by the decomposition of organic material" underneath the lobby was behind the explosion, which blew out windows, said Francisco Alor, attorney general of the south-eastern Quintana Roo state, on Milenio television.

The damaged area of the hotel had been built four years ago on top of swampy area, Alor said, ruling out that the

explosion could have been an attack.

The five deceased Canadian tourists included three men, one woman and a nine-year-old boy. The Mexicans killed were a tourist guide and the hotel's security director, Alor said.

Hotel guest Jeff Zimmerman told CBC television that the explosion opened a hole in the floor of the hotel lobby area, creating a huge crater.

Collapsed ceiling panels were surrounded by rubble in pictures from the site.

"Canadian officials in Ottawa and in Mexico continue to monitor the impact of the explosion and remain in close contact with Mexican authorities," Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said in a statement late Sunday.

Playa del Carmen is about 90 kilometers (56 miles) south of the major resort center of Cancun, the Maya Riviera.

Several hurt in violent Haiti protests over cholera

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) - Violent protests flared in northern Haiti yesterday against UN peacekeepers, leaving several people hurt, as residents demonstrated over a spreading cholera epidemic, officials and witnesses said.

The protests erupted in the northern city of Cap Haitien, some 274 kilometers (169 miles) north of the capital, where around 100 people have died in the cholera outbreak in recent days.

"People with bullet wounds have been taken to the Justinien hospital in the city. I don't know exactly how many people have been injured or how badly they are hurt," said Yves Jasmin, regional director of the Haitian health ministry.

"The situation is very difficult, and there is a lot of violence in the city. I am blocked in the city, and I can't get to the hospital, he added.

A local journalist said thousands of people had demonstrated "against the UN mission on the spot and the government's slowness in dealing with the spread of cholera in this town."

"The blue helmets fired tear gas, and we know that there were people hurt, but we don't

know how they were injured or in what circumstances," said UN spokesman Vincenzo Pugliese.

Less than a month after the emergence of Haiti's first cholera outbreak in half a century, the confirmed number of fatalities is at 917 and rising by more than 50 a day on average.

Local residents have blamed the outbreak on Nepalese UN peacekeepers who they have claimed are carriers of the water-borne disease.

The demonstrators had come from several regions to call for UN peacekeepers to leave the Caribbean nation, accusing the government of "leaving the population to die."

Local radio correspondents in Cap Haitien said that about 10 people have been hurt in yesterday's protests.

Schools were closed in Cap Haitien yesterday as parents were refusing to send their children to class, fearing they may get sick.

Most of the deaths from the cholera epidemic have been in northern Haiti, with the disease not yet widespread in the capital of Port-au-Prince, badly damaged in a January quake which killed 250,000 people and left 1.3 homeless.

Military: Colombia bombs FARC camp, 13 rebels killed

BOGOTA, Colombia (AFP) - At least 13 rebels were killed yesterday when Colombia's air force bombed a remote FARC encampment near the border with Ecuador, military officials said.

"Coordinated joint operations by the police, air force and army that began early yesterday resulted in the deaths of 13 terrorists from the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colom-

bia)," the defense ministry said in a statement.

The attack -- ordered after what the ministry said was "intensive intelligence work by the national police" -- came on the 100th day in office for Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos, who has vowed to redouble efforts to bring Latin America's longest-running leftist insurgency to heel.

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Marisela is back in town



Fans welcomed Marisela back to Aruba with open arms. The famed songstress left Aruba for Europe this summer and dedicated her time to the creative process of a CD with her own original

materials. While the rough-cut is ready, she will return to the Netherlands after New Year to complete her mission, polish and mix the sound-track professionally. While back on the island Marisela did not waste any time and returned to the business of entertaining her fans. Her plane landed here at 11 pm on Friday, delayed due to weather conditions, thirty minutes later she was on stage, at Garufa Ultra Lounge, in top form, playing to a full house. Marisela returns to Garufa Ultra Lounge on November 19th for a performance with Mario Chow her loyal band member and rumor has it she will be at Garufa Ultra Lounge on New Year's Eve for a fantastic party welcoming 2011.

Geert Wilders gives controversial MP a second chance, despite convictions

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Geert Wilders has decided not to expel MP Eric Lucassen from the party, despite his criminal convictions, the PVV leader said in a statement yesterday afternoon.

Last week it emerged Lucassen has a conviction for sexually abusing a female army recruit while he was a sergeant and has been accused of threatening and intimidating his neighbours.

In his statement, Wilders stressed Lucassen has not been convicted of threatening behaviour. Lucassen has admitted being fined twice for 'breaking the law' and was found guilty of sexual offences in 2002. The statement did not give any details about the two fines.

Lucassen also says there is no question that he sexually



Eric Lucassen

abused young army recruits while he was an officer. 'It was an inappropriate relationship... Lucassen admits he made a serious mistake,' Wilders' statement said.

Lucassen was embarrassed about the position he had put the party in by keeping quite

about his past during the selection procedure to become an MP and has apologised to all involved, Wilders said.

Although Lucassen can remain in parliament, he will no longer speak on behalf of the PVV on defence or neighbourhood policy issues, Wilders said.

Lucassen's position is crucial for the minority government which is propped up by PVV support to give it a majority of just one in parliament.

A spokesman for the VVD, one of the two parties which make up the government, said the claims are a matter for the PVV.

But CDA sources told the NRC they are concerned about both the stability and reputation of the cabinet if it has to depend on someone with a criminal record for its survival.

US-Colombian open skies pact "to boost tourism"

A recently signed open skies agreement between Colombia and the United States will lead to an increase in American tourists, the president of Colombia's tourism and exports promotion agency said Sunday.

According to a Proexport press release, the deal "reaffirms Colombia's strategic position for investors" and will increase the international tourist flow.

The tourism and investment promoter said that 24% of visitors to Colombia are from the U.S., adding that from January to August this year, the number of visitors from the U.S. grew 7.3% compared to the same period last year.

When the open skies agreement takes effect in January 2013, this number of visitors will be stimulated to grow even more, Proexport director Maria Claudia Lacouture said in the press release.

Following an improved security situation in Colombia's cities and tourist spots in the first decade of this century, the country has seen a steady growth in tourism.

Proexport announced the open skies pact only days after the U.S. State Department warned that "terrorist activity" still poses a threat to tourists.

Joran van der Sloot 'living like a king,' says father of murdered student

LIMA, Peru -- Life in Lima's notorious Castro Castro Prison isn't quite so bad for one of its inmates. The father of murdered student Stephany Flores says his daughter's accused killer is "living like a king."

Joran van der Sloot, who also remains the only suspect in the disappearance of Alabama teenager Natalee Holloway, is awaiting trial in Lima for the murder of Flores, a 21-year-old student who was found brutally beaten to death in his hotel

room.

In an interview on Peruvian TV, businessman Ricardo Flores complained that although Castro Castro is infamously crowded, van der Sloot has a private cell.

He also has more exercise privileges than other inmates and has access to marijuana. As previously reported, van der Sloot was caught on tape negotiating a pot purchase in the prison yard.

Castro Castro officials later claimed it was a "sting operation."



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Aruba Diabetes Foundation: Take action and prevent diabetes NOW

Big interest for the foundation's Blue Walk; Minister Visser switched on the lights illuminating the Parliament building in blue



November 14, is World Diabetes Day, and was commemorated around the world. International organizations working in the prevention of diabetes this year made a special

call to everyone to take control and act now. With this message the Aruba Diabetes Foundation organized a Blue Walk, which took off from the Wilhelmina Park. Aim of the

walk was to give support to all diabetic patients and to motivate the community in general to Act, Take Control and Prevent Diabetes...NOW!

At present Aruba has about

8,000 diabetic patients registered but diabetes is an illness that goes unnoticed for many years until the moment that a person feels ill. A lot of persons live with diabetes without knowing it, when doing a general check-up the disease comes to the surface.

Doctors and health professionals around the world are very worried with about the growth of diabetes in the world. The world perspective is that diabetes cases will continue to rise. On Aruba there are 150 amputee cases registered per year. This amount will certainly rise if we do not act now. Acting now means weight control, healthy eating habits and constant moving exercises.

By taking control the Aruba Diabetes refers to that Arubans must educate and inform themselves on this illness. Read, assist to informative lectures and ask your house doctor all you need to know about diabetes. Change your lifestyle for a healthier one; it is the only way to prevent diabetes

Act, Take Control...Prevent Diabetes NOW!

Photos show the moments of the walk in the streets of Oranjestad. Minister of Public Health and Sports, Dr. Richard Visser also took part in the walk and at the end he switched on the lights of the Parliament building, illuminating it in blue, and so showing his support to the Aruba Diabetes Foundation.

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Imelda Hof holds its 7th "The Breakfast Walk"



On Sunday, November 14, a group of no less than 280 persons took part in the 7th "The breakfast Walk," organized by Imelda Hof. The walk is a fundraiser for the institution which houses 52 children of broken homes.

For only Afls. 12.50 participants received a t-shirt, a bottle of water and a complete breakfast. Aruba Department of Sports, IDEFRE, was in charge at different posts to supply the walkers with water,

while the participants walked through the different neighborhoods of Noord and back to Imelda Hof.

This time the participants broke the record. From all sectors of the community people came to the walk, including Minister of Social Affairs, Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, who came with all her office personnel.

The Board of Directors of Imelda Hof is convinced that,

aside from the will to help the institution, the participants are more conscious of child abuse, which was the theme of this year's walk. By taking part in this walk, the communities stayed in good condition, gave their financial contribution and at the same time send a clear message that they are against child abuse.

The Board of Directors of Imelda Hof expressed its satisfaction with the result of the walk. This form of help by the



commerce certainly facilitates the process of the institution to get the necessary funds to take care of the children. At the moment they have 30 children

under the supervision of 16 leaders. Imelda Hof was founded on November 25, 1954 and this year it is celebrating its 56th anniversary

Sci-Tech

US researchers explain how cats lap liquids with elegance



WASHINGTON(AFP) - US researchers on Thursday unveiled the secret of how cats lap water or milk with such elegance, a phenomenon that happens so fast it cannot be followed by human eyes.

Cats are among the many species that, unlike humans, cannot close their mouths and create suction.

With help from high-speed video taken of a felines lapping liquid, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Princeton University found that household cats and larger felines like tigers balance gravity and inertia as they imbibe liquids.

Scientists already knew that when cats insert their tongue into a bowl of liquid, the top surface of the tongue touches the liquid first, then the tip curves like a letter J to form a sort of ladle.

This was first observed by

an MIT engineer, who filmed a cat lapping liquid in 1940.

However by studying the images researchers have now determined that there is no ladling effect, but instead the cat's tongue darts in and out so quickly that the action forms a column of liquid.

"Cats, unlike dogs, aren't dipping their tongues into the liquid like ladles after all," read a statement from the MIT Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Instead, the smooth tip of cat's tongue "barely brushes the surface of the liquid before the cat rapidly draws its tongue back up.

"As it does so, a column of milk forms between the moving tongue and the liquid's surface. The cat then closes its mouth, pinching off the top of the column for a nice drink, while keeping its chin dry."

The liquid column "is cre-

ated by a delicate balance between gravity, which pulls the liquid back to the bowl, and inertia, which in physics, refers to the tendency of the liquid or any matter, to continue moving in a direction unless another force interferes."

The cat "instinctively knows just how quickly to lap in order to balance these two forces, and just when to close its mouth. If it waits another fraction of a second, the force of gravity will overtake inertia, causing the column to break, the liquid to fall back into the bowl, and the cat's tongue to come up empty."

Cats average about four laps per second, with each lap bringing in about 0.1 milliliters of liquid, the researchers said, adding that larger felines lap at a slower pace.

Facebook launches new messaging service, includes email

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Facebook launched a next-generation online messaging service on Monday that includes facebook.com email addresses.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg unveiled what he called a "convergent" modern

messaging system that "handles messages seamlessly across all the ways you want to communicate."

The messaging service blends online chat, text messages and other real-time conversation tools with traditional email, which Zucker-

berg said had lost favor for being too slow for young Internet users.

"It is true that people will be able to have facebook.com email addresses, but this is not email," Zuckerberg said at an event in downtown San Francisco. "It handles email."

Adobe launches Acrobat X Pro, new cloud services

Adobe on Monday launched its much-anticipated Acrobat X Pro program, along with a pair of two new cloud-based subscription services to enable the creation and sharing of PDF documents.

Acrobat X Pro offers users new features such as the Quick Tools customizable toolbar and the Action Wizard, which allows the automation of multi-step tasks that can then be applied to a single document or batches of files.

Acrobat X Pro also offers

new customization options for PDF portfolios, allowing professional users to create and share custom layouts and themes for consistent branding. The program's printing options and preview tool have also been upgraded, and the company promises Acrobat will have tight integration with its services at is compatible with Macs running OS X 10.5.8 or 10.6.4.

The cloud-based services are Adobe SendNow and Adobe CreatePDF. SendNow is a document exchange serv-

ice available that lets users send, download, track, and manage documents; the service helps users avoid e-mail gateway issues, FTP servers, or the need to print documents and send them through the postal service.

CreatePDF enables online PDF creation from computers that aren't running Acrobat, using the browser to convert files created by Microsoft Office, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator and other supported programs.



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Study: injured monkeys grow new spinal cord nerves

Some patients with spinal cord injuries later experience a substantial recovery of movement, and a new study in monkeys may explain why this is. The findings may lead to better ways to treat patients with spinal cord injuries.

The researchers found certain nerve fibers that were not damaged when the spinal cord was injured spontaneously grew, or sprouted, and compensated for the severed connections, allowing the monkeys to gain back much sensation and movement.

This type of repair likely occurs only in cases of mild spinal cord injury - severe cases result in more permanent paralysis. However, the researchers said the findings might still have implications for those with more serious spinal injuries.

"If we can understand how this growth is naturally occurring, how this compensatory sprouting is naturally occurring, then we can potentially develop new treatments to elicit the same growth, or enhance the same growth in humans" with severe spinal cord injuries, said study researcher Ephron Rosenzweig of the Department of Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego.

The study was published today (Nov. 14) in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*.

Injury and rehabilitation
The corticospinal tract is a bundle of nerve fibers that connects the brain's cortex with the spinal cord. These

nerve fibers are critical for fine movements, such as hand manipulation, Rosenzweig said, and are very resistant to re-growth after an injury.

In the study, Rosenzweig and his colleagues made precise cuts to the spinal cords of 14 rhesus monkeys, severing only connections on the right side of their corticospinal tract. The monkeys lost the ability to make fine movements with their right hands.

The animals then underwent rehabilitation exercises, and the researchers tested their ability to retrieve food rewards from a platform.

After 24 weeks, the monkeys showed substantial recovery of their hand motor function. On autopsy, those who had the greatest recovery in their ability to move their right hands also had the greatest growth of nerve fibers within the corticospinal tract that had been spared during the initial injury.

This growth was able to restore 60 percent of the original spinal cord connections, the researchers said.

"I think it's incredibly important work," said Jason Carmel, of the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, who has researched spinal cord injury recovery in rats and was not involved in the new study. The fact that the study demonstrates a change not only in the spinal cord anatomy, but also in the monkey's behavior is exciting, he said.



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Health & Living

Europe to knock down barriers for disabled



BRUSSELS (AFP) — The one in six Europeans with a disability should be able to cross EU borders carrying a single card offering bloc-wide entitlements from next year, the European Commission said Monday.

A disabled parking card from one country, for example, would work in another, according to a plan to create a barrier-free Europe for the 80 million people with disabilities announced in Brussels.

"This figure is likely to go up as the European population ages in the next 20 years or so," said commission

spokesman Matthew Newman.

Along with mutual recognition of national disability cards, the 27-nation bloc will seek by 2015 common rules and standards to make services accessible to the disabled and improve their lives.

In austerity-driven Europe, the measures in parallel are expected to have a knock-on effect on the economy, bolstering the market for assisted devices and services which is currently estimated at more than 30 billion euros a year.

"We help people and we're helping the economy," Newman said.

Deaf European parliamentarian Adam Kosa, a conservative from Hungary, said he welcomed the move and called for further efforts in developing the use of sign language and Braille as well as improved training to help people with disabilities join the jobs market.

Stressful jobs may raise women's heart attack risk, study finds

Women who have taxing jobs with little control over their busy days are at higher risk for heart attacks or the need for coronary bypass surgery, new research suggests.

Furthermore, worrying about losing one's job also raised the odds of having cardiovascular disease risk factors such as high blood pressure and higher cholesterol levels -- but not actual heart attacks, stroke or death, the researchers said.

The study, presented Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association in Chicago, breaks new ground for being one of the first to look at the effect of work-related stress on women's health. Most previous studies have focused on men and, yes, those studies found that job stress upped males' odds for cardiovascular disease, too.

Senior author of the study Dr. Michelle A. Albert, an associate physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and her colleagues



looked at more than 17,000 female health professionals, with an average age of 57, who showed no signs of cardiovascular disease at the beginning of the study.

Participants responded to statements about how draining their job was, such as -- "My job allows me to make a lot of decisions on my own" or "My job requires that I learn new things" or "My job requires working very fast."

"Job strain [involving] psychological demand and decision latitude are tied into the concept of skill, how you are allowed to be at your job, is your job repetitive, does it require you to work at a fast pace," explained Albert.

Over 10 years of follow-up, the researchers noted that women with high job strain -- demanding jobs over which they had little control -- were more likely to be sedentary and to have high cholesterol. They were also at almost double the risk for a heart attack and at a 43 percent higher risk to undergo a bypass procedure. The researchers found no significant link between job strain and either stroke or risk for death.

Women with job insecurity (fear of job loss) were not more likely to have a heart attack or other event, but they were more likely to have several risk factors for cardiovascular problems, including physical inactivity, high cholesterol, hypertension or diabetes. They were also more likely to weigh more.

When it came to health, how demanding a job was seemed to trump how free women were to make decisions or to use their creativity.

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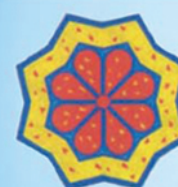
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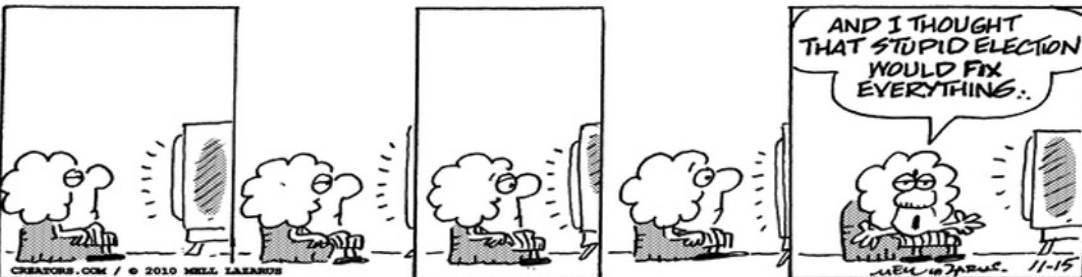


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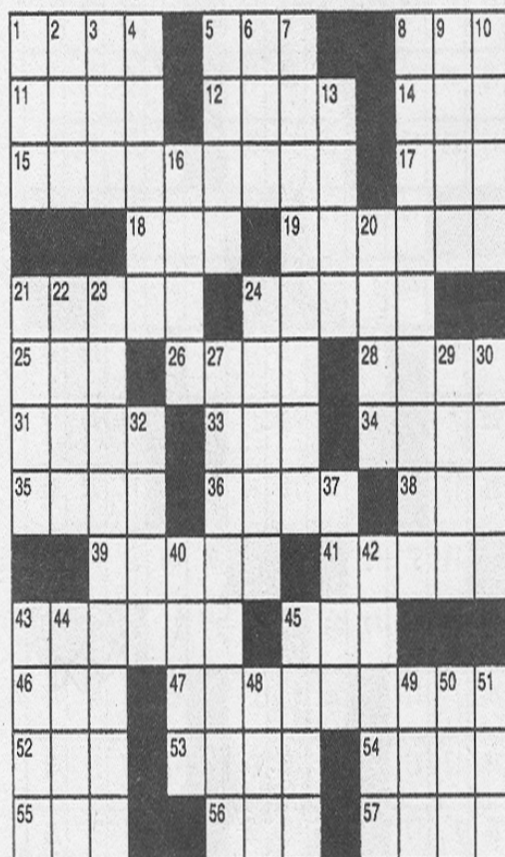
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ACROSS

1. Billy or nanny
 5. On in years
 8. School org.

11. Woody's son

12. Debatable
 14. Witch
 15. Black birds



17. Sooner than, to a bard
 18. Make a doily
 19. "___ Peace"
 21. Shoestrings
 24. Studies diligently
 25. Spanish gold
 26. Threesome
 28. Cave dwellers
 31. Overcook greatly
 33. Conclusion
 34. Metal fastener
 35. Poet Lazarus
 36. "___ Small World"
 38. Musical syllable
 39. Unlocks
 41. Coins, in Chihuahua
 43. President Ford
 45. Ventilate
 46. The Gay Nineties, e.g.
 47. Fish-eating duck
 52. Soft metal
 53. Bench, e.g.
 54. Loosen
 55. Tennis unit
 56. TLC givers
 57. Hurried

DOWN

1. Car fuel
 2. Table scrap
 3. Chicken ___ king

4. Rich cake
 5. Leave out
 6. Actor Chaney
 7. Flowering trees
 8. Game birds
 9. Mountain lake
 10. Matured
 13. Russian ruler of yore
 16. Endure
 20. Insurgents, for short
 21. Ear part
 22. Calla lily, e.g.
 23. Diving bird
 24. Pub servings
 27. Sleigh puller?
 29. Tropical root
 30. Resorts, of sorts
 32. California valley
 37. Capital of Western Samoa
 40. Stately trees
 42. Marine birds
 43. Obtains
 44. Buffalo's lake
 45. G-men, e.g.
 48. Bled, as dye
 49. Dope
 50. Opposite of WNW
 51. Scarlet



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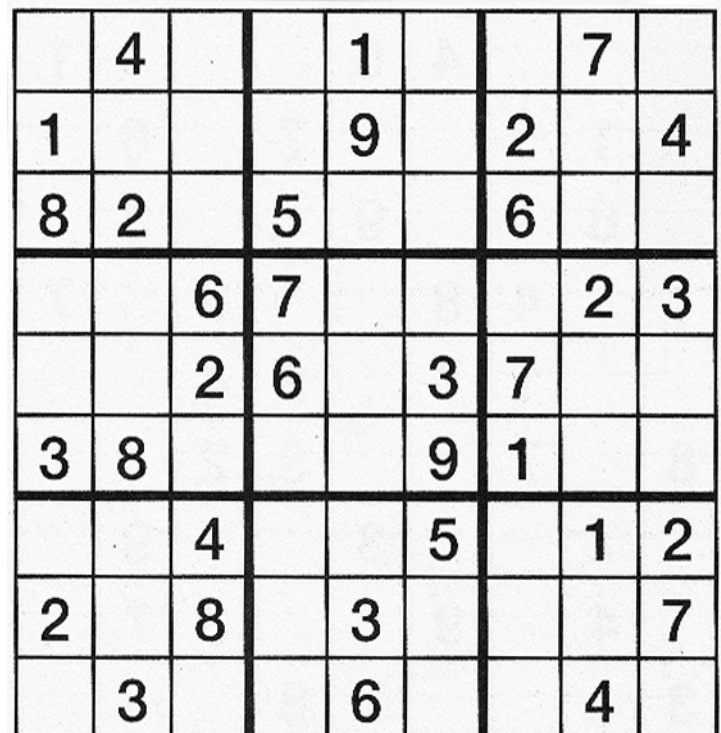
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	4	8	2	9	6	1	3	7
7	9	6	4	3	1	8	5	2
2	1	3	9	7	8	4	6	5
9	5	1	6	2	4	7	8	3
8	6	7	3	5	9	2	1	4
3	2	4	1	8	7	9	6	5
1	3	9	2	4	5	6	7	8
4	8	2	9	6	3	5	1	7
6	7	5	8	1	2	3	4	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance



The United States must move to rein in its massive budget deficits or it faces the risk of a bond market crisis, former Federal Reserve chairperson Alan Greenspan said on Sunday. "We've got to resolve this issue before it gets forced upon us," Greenspan said of the ballooning US debt levels.



Soils containing rare earth minerals are loaded at a port in eastern China's Jiangsu province. China's blocking of rare earth minerals to Japan is easing after Beijing pledged to "speed up" exports amid a thaw between the Asian powers in a territorial spat, traders said yesterday. **AFP PHOTO**



An Egyptian man checks his rice kernels after the husk has been removed at a mill in al-Ramlah village close to the town of Banha, some 50 km north of Cairo. The Egyptian government has decided to ration the amount of water utilised in the growing of rice. **(AFP PHOTO)**

European stocks rebound, euro wilts on debt fears

LONDON, England (AFP) - European share prices rebounded yesterday on positive US retail sales data after losing ground on fears for the financial health of the eurozone, which sent the euro tumbling against the dollar.

Markets were riveted on Ireland, which said it was in contact with international partners while insisting it had not sought a financial rescue package to help it pay its debts.

The fate of two other financially strapped eurozone states, Greece and Portugal, also weighed on sentiment.

Greece warned that its public deficit this year would likely come to 9.4 percent of output, rather than the 8.1 percent target it had agreed to meet in order to secure an IMF-EU bailout in May.

The Portuguese finance minister, Fernando Teixeira dos Santos, said his country was at a high risk of needing a rescue due to the danger of contagion from other debt-hit euro nations.

Adding to the turmoil and uncertainty, the European Union's executive commission said Ireland's difficulties could indeed have an impact on the financial stability of the euro area as a whole.

In such an atmosphere, Eu-

ropean stock exchanges were under pressure until mid-afternoon when data showed US retail sales rose a far better than expected 1.2 percent in October.

The London FTSE 100 index added 0.41 percent to close at 5,820.41 points while in Paris the CAC 40 gained 0.86 percent to 3,864.24 points. In Frankfurt, the DAX added 0.82 percent at 6,790.17 points.

Elsewhere there were gains of 0.79 percent in Milan, 1.20 percent in Madrid, 0.89 percent on the Swiss Market Index and 0.68 percent in Amsterdam.

"The good figure concerning retail sales in the United States made gains possible and it was also thought that anxiety surrounding the debt of certain European countries has probably been exaggerated," said Arnaud de Champvallier of Turgot Asset Management.

US stocks advanced on the retail sales data.

The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.41 percent at 11,238.29 points while the tech-rich Nasdaq gained 0.11 percent to 2,521.09.

"All in all, the retail sales report is another key data point that suggests the US economy is on a growth path that holds potential to produce some pos-

itive surprises," said Patrick O'Hare of Briefing.com.

The single European currency however fared much worse yesterday in the confusion surrounding measures that Ireland might or might not be taking to firm up its finances.

The euro fell to 1.3615 dollars from 1.3693 dollars late on Friday in New York. The dollar was meanwhile at 82.85 yen, up from 82.52 yen on Friday.

"The state of play ... is that the Irish government is resisting pressure from the EU for a bailout," said analyst Neil McKinnon of VTB Capital.

"While Ireland faces no immediate funding pressures, its banks are under pressure following the collapse of the Irish housing market, which has left the banks liable for loan defaults and EU policymakers seem to be worried that Ireland's problems could spill over into the rest of the (eurozone's weaker) economies."

Asian stocks were mixed earlier yesterday as eye-catching growth data helped Tokyo shrug off worries about the eurozone.

Tokyo's Nikkei index ended the day up 1.06 percent but Sydney lost 0.10 percent and Hong Kong dropped 0.81 percent.

Shanghai rebounded 0.97 percent, after slumping a dramatic 5.16 percent on Friday, its biggest one-day fall in 14 months.

Tokyo was boosted by data showing Japan's economy grew by 3.9 percent in the July-September period from a year before, while the dollar's stronger performance against the yen gave the all-important export sector a lift.

GM to launch massive stock offering Thursday

GM will re-enter the stock market after it was forced into a state-backed bankruptcy reorganization in June 2009, reducing the government's stake and continuing the company's rehabilitation.

Banks "will set the (stock) price on Wednesday and trading will start on Thursday," the person said on condition of anonymity.

GM announced the initial public offering (IPO) on November 3, an offer worth as much as 15 billion dollars if a high-demand clause is activated.

The offering will consist of 365 million shares of common stock, with an estimated price range of 26 dollars to 29 dollars per share. GM will also issue 60 million preferred

shares at 50 dollars per share.

Nationalized during the financial crisis, GM is currently 60.8 percent owned by the US federal government, while the Canadian government owns 11.7 percent of the capital and the United Auto Workers union holds a 19.93 percent stake including warrants.

The US government's share is expected to fall to 43.26 percent after the sale, according to research firm Dealogic.

Last week, GM posted a two-billion-dollar third-quarter profit after years of painful cuts, a major revamp of its product portfolio and a slow-but-steady recovery by the auto industry from the worst downturn in decades.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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HARE	TOPE	OPEN	POLO
ARAR	REED	NERO	ALSO
DEBATE	SALT	MOTTLED	
TRAM	LEAP	PET	
SCREAMED	GIRL	DEBIT	
ALA	PERIL	NOAH	REDO
GAGS	DIVED	WRAP	ALL
SWEEP	TAMER	DREADED	
NOD	NOVEL	DAN	
BATTERY	NICER	ROMAN	
ERE	TIES	LAGER	NILE
READ	PALM	PAGES	MET
TARES	ROAD	LUNATICS	
BAR	TRIP	ROLE	
PARAPET	REAM	WELDED	
IRIS	BALI	PAWN	LADE
LINE	EPEE	ERIE	ERIC
LAGS	LEAD	REND	REEK

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Have you had your breakfast today? The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



Linda and Ramon Pimienta with their son Raymond, at right

When Linda and Ramon Pimienta started their small business at the old wharf down town, little did they know that they had a goldmine when it comes to the perfect blend of international and local cuisine. Nowadays, they are located right behind the Royal Plaza Mall where they serve up a storm to visitors and locals alike. What is their secret? Offering high quality dishes at super prizes that fit anyone's budget.

have been with the company for ten years are ready to serve you with a smile.

Besides serving traditional breakfast dishes such as eggs sunny side up with ham and cheese, scrambled or plain they also serve pastechi horna (a small pie pocket with different fillings), crêpes, sweet crêpes and bagels with cream cheese, smoked salmon or boiled eggs.

If you want to really experience the Aruban twist you might want to try something



For ten years The Old Fisherman has been serving local cuisine with an international twist for lunch and dinner and they have managed to stay on top by using high quality fresh ingredients. From their fish cakes with "funchi" (polenta) and "pan

from the local breakfast menu served on pan grandi (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp, fish fillet, fish cake and the chicken soup or you can have fruit salad and yoghurt.



bati" nicely presented to soup of the day accompanied by delicious deserts.

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Branson to serve as 'stewardess' after losing F1 bet



Richard Branson

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AFP) – Lotus F1 boss Tony Fernandes said yesterday he will auction off seats on an AirAsia flight where Virgin boss Richard Branson will dress up as a flight attendant after losing a cross-dressing bet.

The two airline bosses placed a bet at the beginning of the 2010 Formula One championship, agreeing that the one whose Formula One team lost would serve as a "stewardess" on the winner's airline.

Although both teams completed the season with zero points on Sunday, Lotus were placed ahead of Branson's

Virgin Racing in the rankings by virtue of their better race finishing positions.

"We have had this great bet running all season and now it's time for Richard to start preparing himself for some hard work and the likely pain of a pair of high heels," Fernandes said in a statement.

Fernandes is the principal of the new Malaysian-backed Lotus team and group chief executive of AirAsia, Southeast Asia's biggest budget carrier.

He said he gave the British tycoon a red stewardess outfit when the duo met at the celebrations on track Sunday night and they agreed on how the bet would be settled.

They will run an online charity auction for the seats on a Kuala Lumpur-London flight, according to the AirAsia boss.

"The date of the flight will be announced very soon and the aim is to raise as much money as we can for a good cause so the discomfort Richard will go through is worth as much as it possibly can be," said Fernandes.

Lotus and Virgin Racing were among four teams making their Formula One debuts this season.

French cuisine eyes UNESCO heritage spot

PARIS, France (AFP) - When it comes to meal time, the French do it differently. That is the argument being put to UNESCO as it decides this week whether French cuisine deserves a spot on its intangible heritage list.

"The gastronomic meal of the French" is seen as a strong contender as the UN agency meets in Nairobi from Monday to Friday to consider new submissions for the list, set up in 2003 to safeguard cultural traditions, rituals and crafts.

France's submission to the list -- where it would join the Royal Ballet of Cambodia and Mexico's Day of the Dead festival -- centers around the ritual of the festive meal in a country where food is a key part of social life.

How wines are paired with dishes, how the table is dressed, the precise placing of glasses, for water, red and white wine, knife blade pointing in and fork tines down, are



French cuisine

of the French heritage and gastronomy mission (MFPCA) in charge of submitting the case.

In July, an experts' committee consulted by UNESCO came out in favour of the French bid, which would, if approved become the first gastronomic culture on the UN list.



Mediterranean diet

all seen as part of the rite.

Drawing up the menu -- which often involves several people -- is also key, with some families even printing up a copy for their guests.

Once seated, the French continue to talk endlessly about food, about recipes and memorable meals past and present.

And then there are the elaborate menus themselves, from aperitif to amuse-bouches, starter, one or two main dishes, cheese and dessert, rounded off with "mignardises" -- little nibbles of nougat, chocolates or candied fruits.

With of course coffee to finish...

"A meal is an experimental laboratory for a food culture, it brings together all of its quirks and customs," said Annick Vin

France is vying for the honour against a quartet of countries -- Spain, Italy, Greece and Morocco -- who jointly submitted the "Mediterranean diet"; and Mexico, which is defending its maize-based food traditions.

Praised for its impact on cardiac and vascular health, the mainstays of the Mediterranean diet are olive oil, fish, grains, fruit, nuts and vegetables, usually with a modest amount of red wine. Meat and dairy play a minor role.

For academics at the European food culture institute in Tours, central France, who first launched the UNESCO idea, it is a way to boost the place of gastronomy in French society.

President Nicolas Sarkozy has championed the French candidacy, but the food profes-

sion in France is divided -- unconvinced that their food culture is in danger, and as such needs protecting.

"It's not about setting things in stone," argues back Pierre Sanner, head of the MFPCA.

But his colleague Vin notes that meal times are getting inexorably shorter in France.

"We need to transmit and educate children if we don't want our food culture to be standardised," Vin argues.

Songs, dances and traditional know-how from 31 countries are up for consideration at the UNESCO meet, with 51 submissions ranging from Spanish Flamenco, to China's traditional art of Peking opera.

Four are being considered for a special list on intangible cultural heritage "in need of urgent safeguarding" -- three of which are from China.

They are the leak-proof partitions of Chinese junks, Meshrep -- a traditional gathering held by the Muslim Uighurs of China's mountainous northwest -- and the technique of printing with wooden movable type.

The fourth is the Ojkanje singing tradition of Croatia.

The remaining 47 submissions are up for a spot on the main UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list, which currently features 166 customs, practices and traditions from 77 countries.

Croatian gingerbread, the Azerbaijani carpet and the annual livestock market in Houtem Jaarmarkt in Belgium are among contenders for a spot.

And 11 countries from around the world -- Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Syria and the United Arab Emirates -- are jointly defending the art of falconry.

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Aruban runners join The ING New York City Marathon



forms Shariska Winterdal says that the most memorable moments were when all those people along the road were cheering and screaming: ARUBA, GO ARUBA, followed by GO Shariska. When she heard it, she felt a surge of energy and confidence, that she would reach her goal and kept going. The cheers will stay with her forever, she admits. Overall, Shariska



Aruba group of runners Jurgen Van Schaijk, Shariska Winterdal and Manuel "Mario" Nooijen, all posted times under four hours. Runners Johnny Cheng, Patrick Haime, Herry Koeman and Eugene Martis have participated in the NYC marathon, before. Those of the group that went to NY for the first time, for their first marathon, were Doreen Kralick, Frank Dubbeld, Wilfred Ras, Peter de Hoop, Lucienne Hof Kalis and Diana Wolthuis.

Generally speaking, all group members reported having a fantastic time in NY. The Aruba team shirt listed their respective names as well as the name Aruba, so there were a lot of people from the crowd calling out encouragements, calling them by name, as well as offering happy comments about the island. One person yelled out that it is where they want to go, and considering that it was cold that day, the Aruba Team members understood, enduring the long, cold wait to start -- some of the runners couldn't even get into their assigned wave and had to shiver through extra 40 minutes to wait to join the next wave of runners. And the bottleneck experienced in trying to get out of the Central Park after completing the run was rather difficult, but the actual marathon was great. Experiencing the energy of New York's different neighborhoods, the support of the crowd, the live music and the act of running along, in mass, with 41,999 other runners was unforgettable.

Doreen Kralick reports she practiced for the event by running the marathon distance in the Ironman Lake Placid in July, and that the majority of group members

don't plan to slow down after the marathon -- some of them will participate in the off-road triathlon in Aruba at the end of this month and others will travel again to Florida in January to participate in the half marathon there.

Peter de Hoop, shares that it was his first marathon and he really enjoyed the folks along the road, the music, and the ambiance, and that he will continue to run, having already signed up for the Paris marathon -- it's a great way to see the city, he jokes. Peter recalls that to get to 13.1 miles was fairly easy, and that he did so in 2 hours however, after mile 18 he had to slow down and walk a mile or two. He started running again when he was overtaken by a runner dressed as a rhinoceros, participating on behalf of some environmental Save the Rhino group. "I did not want to be beat by the Rhino," he says, "so I picked up the pace." Having trained for just 3 weeks her recovered well and quickly, he in-

ran a challenge-free race, except for the cold, especially on the bridges, as it grew chillier and chillier; she sometimes didn't feel her legs, she shares.

Yet the organization deserves compliments for putting on such a big event for so many people from around the globe with more than 44,000 people on the start line, it had to be a monumental effort, Shariska concludes.

While pleased with her result, after all that training and the weekend sacrifices of having to wake up at 3 or 4 am to go run, she wants to thank her sons, parents, family members, colleagues at Banco di Caribe, and friends, all those who supported her and believed in her during weeks of trainings, "I really want to do this NYC marathon once again," she states.

The official website of the NYC marathon has announced that the registration for the ING New York City Marathon 2011 is open, we are confident Aruban are signing up.

A group of runners from Aruba joined the famed NYC marathon this year, posting very respectable times. Among the runners, Dr. Patrick Haime, who finished the race in Central Park crossing the finish line clock-

ing 4:12:08, Frank Dubbeld, 4:44:50, Doreen Kralick, 4:35:12, Peter de Hoop, 5:06:03, Manuel Nooijen, 3:27:12, Eugene Martis 4:26:30, Jurgen Van Schaijk, 3:56:28, John Cheng, 4:12:07, Hendrikus Koeman, 5:28:28, Lucienne Hof-Kalis, 4:26:18, Diana Wolthuis, 5:46:58, Wilfred Ras, 4:38:06, and Shariska Winterdal, 3:43:07.

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Posey, Felix claim Rookie of the Year honors



Neftali Feliz (L), Buster Posey (R)

NEW YORK (AFP) - San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey and Texas Rangers closing relief pitcher Neftali Feliz were awarded Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year honors on Monday.

The honors, bestowed in voting by media, went to two players who guided their clubs to the World Series, in which the Giants defeated

Texas to capture their first title in 56 years. Each player drew 20 first-place ballots.

Posey joined the Giants in May and batted .305 with 18 home runs and 67 runs batted

in to claim the National League top newcomer prize.

The 23-year-old American moved behind the plate from first base after the Giants traded Bengie Molina to Texas on July 1. Posey hit safely in 21 consecutive games in July and master-minded pitch calls for San Francisco's powerful arsenal of pitchers.

Atlanta's Jason Heyward was second in the voting with nine first-place ballots.

Feliz set a rookie record with 40 saves and the 22-year-old Dominican right-hander helped the Rangers win their first playoff series in addition to reaching the World Series for the first time in their half-century history.

Chiefs coach apologizes for angry snub of rival

KANSAS CITY (AFP) - Kansas City Chiefs coach Todd Haley apologized Monday for refusing to shake hands with Denver coach Josh McDaniels, instead wagging a finger in his rival's face after an NFL loss.

Denver surged ahead 35-0 in the first half on Sunday and went on to defeat the Chiefs 49-29, the Broncos improving to 3-6 while Kansas City fell to 5-4 and level with Oakland for the AFC West division lead.

Moments after the game ended, McDaniels ran toward Haley for the customary post-game handshake, but Haley pulled back his hand, pointed at McDaniels, made some comments in a heated manner and then turned his back and walked away.

McDaniels said he had no idea why Haley was so angry and Haley refused to say what had made him so upset even as he issued his apology, adding that he felt he had let the emotions of the

Redskins agree to five-year deal with McNabb: report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Washington quarterback Donovan McNabb, benched two weeks ago when his team needed a late scoring drive to win, has agreed to a five-year deal with the Redskins, ESPN reported Monday.

Hours before the Redskins were set to face McNabb's former Philadelphia teammates in a Monday night National Football League game, the sports television network reported McNabb has reached terms on a contract extension.

The deal would be worth 78 million dollars with 40 million dollars of that guaranteed and another 10 million dollars in contract incentives possible, ESPN reported, citing an unnamed source with knowledge of the

agreement.

McNabb's current contract is set to expire at the end of this season. He was obtained by the Redskins in an off-season trade with the NFC East division-rival Eagles.

Redskins coach Mike Shanahan elected to bench McNabb on October 31 at Detroit with Shanahan expressing concern about McNabb in a time-compressed situation in going with backup Rex Grossman on the final two Washington possessions against the Lions.

"I thought that was the best scenario for us to win," Shanahan said.

Grossman fumbled away the ball to surrender a touchdown on his first play and the Redskins lost 37-25.

McNabb, a six-time All-Pro quarterback, did not express anger after the benching.

"You have to be a professional. There's a long season ahead of us," McNabb said. "You just have to learn from it and move on."

The Redskins, 4-4, had a bye week last week and talks between McNabb and the club were believed to have taken place during the extended rest break.

Lightning's Lecavalier out 4-5 weeks with broken hand

TAMPA (AFP) - Tampa Bay Lightning center Vincent Lecavalier underwent successful surgery Monday on his broken right hand but will miss the next four or five weeks of the National Hockey League season.

The Lightning announced the details after the operation was performed on Monday in

Cleveland by physician Tom Graham, who repaired the unstable fracture by inserting a plate and screws.

Lecavalier, captain of the Lightning, was hurt during Tampa Bay's loss last Thursday at Washington. The 30-year-old Canadian has scored three goals and assisted on six assists in 10 games this season.

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Gebrselassie in u-turn over retirement

NAIROBI, Kenya (AFP) - Ethiopian athletics legend Haile Gebrselassie has changed his mind about retiring and will continue to run at the top level for the next two to three years, his manager and agent said on Monday.

Gebrselassie, the marathon world record

holder and two-time 10,000 metres Olympic gold medalist made the decision to retire after limping out of his first New York marathon with a knee injury last week.

But his Dutch manager Jos Hermens said the 37-year-old athlete has accepted to put his retirement plans on hold after

being talked out of it by his friends and fellow Ethiopians.

"You cannot just stop because you lost a race. After New York, Gebrselassie took the week to make up his mind and it is his will to continue running," said the Dutchman, who has managed the athlete for 20 years.

Pirates hope a new Hurdle helps make them a winner

PITTSBURGH (AFP) - Clint Hurdle was named manager of Major League Baseball's Pittsburgh Pirates on Monday, tasked with making a winner out of team that has suffered 18 losing seasons in a row.

"I'm proud to be a Pirate, and we're not going to back down from anybody," Hurdle said. "This will eventually get done and I don't have a doubt it will. I wanted to be here when it turns."

Hurdle served this past season as batting coach for the Texas Rangers, who had the best batting average in Major League Baseball and

advanced to the first World Series in their 50-year history, losing to the San Francisco Giants.

The Pirates went 57-105 last season, their worst record in 58 years and the worst record of the 30 major league teams. John Russell was fired as manager the day after the season ended.

Pittsburgh's pitchers had the worst earned-run average in the major leagues at 5.00. Pirates fielders matched the most errors in the majors with 127 and their batting average, .242, was the second-worst in baseball.



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